

### Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 25 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Roberts et al. (US Patent No. 6,754,693), hereafter "Roberts." Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is defective because Roberts fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1 recites:

"A connection accepting system, comprising: client terminals connected to a network; and a first server for accepting connection requests from said client terminals through said network, wherein said server includes a priority order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets a connection priority for said first client terminal and transmits data conveying said connection priority to said first client terminal; and a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to connection priority upon receiving a second connection request from a second client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request; and said first client terminal displays connection priority information, based on said data conveying said connection priority."

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to be interchangeably and incorrectly equating the claimed "first server" with both Roberts' server 20 and second computer 24. However, unlike the present invention, Roberts' server 20 fails to include, *inter alia*, the claimed "priority order setting unit" and "connection

managing unit." Further, the Examiner has incorrectly alleged that queue information is displayed by the "first client terminal" (Roberts' user computer 12) based on connection priority information. On the contrary, the sections cited by the Examiner with regard to this feature refer to the display of information on Roberts' second computer 24, not Roberts' user computer 12.

Roberts is similarly deficient with respect to independent claims 3 and 25.

With regard to dependent claim 2, Roberts does not disclose the claimed "second server." In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to be incorrectly equating the claimed "second server" with Roberts' second computer 24, which the Examiner has already equated with the claimed "first server." Roberts clearly fails to disclose the claimed "second server."

Regarding dependent claim 4, as stated above, the sections of Roberts cited by the Examiner with regard to the display of the claimed "connection-order information" refer to the display of information on Roberts' second computer 24, not Roberts' user computer 12.


Regarding dependent claim 5, Roberts' server 20 does not include the claimed "connection-number monitoring unit."

Regarding dependent claim 6, Roberts' server 20 does not transmit a "program for automatically executing said second connection request again" to the user computer 12.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place

the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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